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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7622
INFO RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 4060
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0415
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0152
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 1048
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 9108
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0167
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0628
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0299
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA 0262
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0054
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0381
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0141
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ DEC ABUJA 0106
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0495
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1611
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0820
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 5014
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0109
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0244
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 0133
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0271
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1693
RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 0178
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0551
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 0665
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 5100
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0267
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1322
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 0347
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 1112
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0342
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 2058
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0205
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0160
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0178
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 4660
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2862
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1722
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2000
RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 0073
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0038

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002566

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DEPT FOR WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/07/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [CU](#) [NL](#)
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/CUBA: LIBERTAD ACT REVIEW

REF: STATE 191752

Classified By: DCM Chat Blakeman; reasons 1.4 (b, d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Dutch investments in Cuba are minimal, and post is aware of no bilateral trade agreements between the Cuban and Dutch governments. Post is aware of no exchange programs. The GONL is a leading EU advocate for human rights, and both the government and Dutch NGOs are active in promoting human rights in Cuba. Post is aware of no high level diplomatic visits between Cuba and the Netherlands in the past six months. End summary.

¶2. (C) The GONL considers questions related to implementation of the Libertad Act a European Union matter. It prefers to allow the EU to issue a common response to our questions.

The GONL shares, however, our interest in promoting democracy and human rights in Cuba. Moreover, the Netherlands has been extremely useful in promoting a more robust European Union engagement in Latin America.

Dutch investment in Cuba minimal

13. (SBU) Dutch investment in Cuba remains minimal. Demex Shipyards, which operates a facility in Santiago (El Nispero Shipyard), is the largest Dutch business interest. UK-Dutch consumer products company Unilever maintains a sales office.

14. (SBU) The large Netherlands-based bank, ING, operates a joint venture in Curacao with two Cuban based companies. The joint venture is the Curacao-based Netherlands Caribbean Bank N.V. (NCB). On the basis that NCB is "substantially" owned by Cuban entities, Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) recently blacklisted it. Dutch press have reported that an ING office in the U.S. had transferred money, through NCB's Curacao branch, to NCB's Havana branch. These press reports also said that ING's U.S. office may be subject to fines for these actions. ING is investigating the matter internally.

15. (SBU) Post is not aware of any bilateral trade agreements between Cuba and the Netherlands.

Exchange programs: None

16. (SBU) Post is aware of no exchange programs between the Netherlands and Cuba.

Dutch actively promote democracy and human rights in Cuba

17. (C) The Netherlands actively promotes a common EU position in Cuba, with the long-term goal of democratic change. The Dutch are closely following developments in Cuba, and are anxious to coordinate with the U.S. on transition planning. Senior MFA officials have acknowledged that the EU policy of engagement has failed.

18. (SBU) Several Dutch NGOs (or Dutch branches of NGOs) continue to focus public attention on human rights in Cuba, including Pax Christi, HIVOS, NOVIB and Cuba Futuro.

No high level diplomatic visits

19. (SBU) Post is not aware of any high level diplomatic visits between Cuba and The Netherlands in the past six months.

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